

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

PERSON REFERRED TO IN THE SENATE

(MS JEANNIE CAMERON)

(34TH REPORT)

14 NOVEMBER 1991

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator Patricia Giles (Western Australia), **Chair**
Senator Austin Lewis (Victoria) **Deputy-Chairman**
Senator Vicki Bourne (New South Wales)
Senator Bruce Childs (New South Wales)
Senator John Coates (Tasmania)
Senator Barney Cooney (Victoria)
Senator Baden Teague (South Australia)

The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

REPORT

1. On 8 November 1991 Ms Jeannie Cameron wrote to the President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Kerry W. Sibraa, seeking redress under the resolution of the Senate of 25 February 1988 relating to the protection of persons referred to in the Senate (Privilege Resolution 5). The letter referred to remarks made by the Minister for Social Security, Senator Richardson, in the Senate on 17 October 1991. Ms Cameron's letter indicated that, while she was not mentioned by name, she was mentioned in such a way as to be readily identified, for which paragraph (1) of the resolution makes provision. The President, having accepted Ms Cameron's letter as a submission for the purposes of the resolution, referred the letter to the Committee of Privileges on 13 November 1991.
2. The Committee met today and decided, pursuant to paragraph (3) of Privilege Resolution 5, to consider the submission from Ms Cameron. In considering the submission, the Committee did not find it necessary to confer with either Ms Cameron or Senator Richardson. After deciding to recommend to the Senate that an agreed statement be incorporated in *Hansard*, the Committee contacted Ms Cameron and the statement at appendix 1 has been agreed to by Ms Cameron and the Committee in accordance with Resolution 5(7)(b).
3. The Committee recommends:

That a response by Ms Jeannie Cameron, in the terms specified at appendix 1, and agreed to by Ms Cameron and the Committee, be incorporated in *Hansard*.

Patricia Giles
Chair

**RESPONSE BY MS JEANNIE CAMERON
AGREED TO BY MS CAMERON
AND THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES
PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 5(7)(B) OF THE SENATE OF
25 FEBRUARY 1988**

I have been referred to by Senator Richardson during the committee of the whole stage of the Appropriation Bills in the Senate on 17 October 1991 (*Hansard*, pages 2237 and 2242).

Although Senator Richardson did not mention me by name, I am readily identified as the person he was speaking about. I am Senator Newman's Defence research officer and I telephoned the National Media Liaison Service (NMLS) regarding a transcript of an interview of the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Mr Gordon Bilney. Further, of Senator Newman's staff I have the most contact with the media and I was the most likely to be speaking with the NMLS. People who know Senator Newman's staff would have identified this person as me.

I believe that Senator Richardson raised matters which were unfair and untrue, and they have adversely affected my reputation. In many instances, not only in the Senate, people have said to me "So you're the one that was rude on the phone". There is an unwarranted belief that I was rude.

I was not rude and I have never been rude to anyone whom I have spoken to, either in person or on the phone, as a representative of Senator Newman.

Jeannie Cameron
Defence Research Officer